

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00304 141450Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----102231 141452Z /41

O 141300Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6783  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE  
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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL CAPTE TOWN IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0304

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV, MZ, RH  
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS AND NIGERIA

REF: (A) STATE 63495 AND 63436; (B) MAPUTO 0298

1. UK AMBASSADOR LEWEN AND I MET WITH PRESIDENTIAL AIDE FERNANDO HONWANA LAST NIGHT TO BRIEF HIM IN ACCORDANCE REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS. HONWANA WAS WELL-INFORMED ON RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS AND GRASPED QUICKLY THE POINTS WE WERE MAKING. HE PROMISED TO REPORT TO PRESIDENT MACHEL FIRST THING THIS MORNING.

2. HONWANA GAVE NO CLUE AS TO WHAT MACHEL'S THINKING MIGHT BE WITH RESPECT TO OUR PROPOSAL FOR AN ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE,  
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OTHER THAN TO REAFFIRM WHAT MACHEL HAS SAID ON MANY OCCASIONS, I.E., THAT MOZAMBIQUE PERCEIVES ITS ROLE GENERALLY TO SUPPORT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. HONWANA CONFESSED THAT AT TIMES IT IS DIFFICULT EVEN FOR MOZAMBIQUE TO LEARN WHAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S POSITION REALLY IS. HONWANA SAID IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF MUGABE AND NKOMO TAKE THE SAME "HARD LINE" REGARDING OUR PROPOSED CONFERENCE WITH OWEN AS THEY DID WITH SECRETARY VANCE. HONWANA

SEEMED TO BE SUGGESTING THAT MUGABE AND NKOMO MIGHT BECOME SONE-WHAT LESS INTRANSIGENT ONCE THEY HAD STAKED OUT PUBLICLY FOR SAKE OF THEIR FOLLOWERS A TOUGH NEGOTIATING POSITION. LEWEN AND I NOTED THAT IT WAS JUST SUCH INTRANSIGENCE THAT HAD DELAYED PROGRESS ON THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN AND HAD HELPED PERSUADE MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE THERE WAS NO FUTURE FOR THEM IN THE AAP. WE HOPED THIS WOULD NOT HAPPEN AGAIN.

3. HONWANA HAD TWO QUESTIONS ON OUR PROPOSED CONFERENCE. FIRST, HE WONDERED IF, IN SEEKING THE CONFERENCE, WE HAD CALCULATED WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE IF THE CONFERENCE DID NOT SUCCEED. HE RECALLED THAT WHEN WE WERE TRYING TO ARRANGE POST-MALTA TALKS, WE HAD SAID THAT WE COULD NOT AFFORD ANOTHER INCLUSIVE MEETING. WOULD WE ACTUALLY IMPROVE CHANCES FOR A SETTLEMENT IF ANOTHER CONFERENCE WERE HELD WITHOUT POSITIVE RESULTS? SECOND, HONWANA ASKED IF A CONFERENCE OF ALL PARTIES MEANT THAT CHIRAU WOULD ATTEND. WE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH NO NAMES HAD BEEN MENTIONED IN OUR PROPOSED INVITATION FOR A CONFERENCE, PARTICIPATION OF CHIRAU SEEMED TO BE IMPLICIT IN THE PHRASEOLOGY OF THE INVITATION. HONWANA DID NOT COMMENT, BUT WITH HIS SHRUG AND RAISED EYEBROW HE MADE THE POINT THAT CHIRAU'S PARTICIPATION MIGHT CREATE PROBLEMS FOR MOZAMBIQUE.

4. AS HONWANA WAS LEAVING, LEWEN AND I SAID WE HOPED THERE WOULD SOON BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US MEET WITH PRESIDENT MACHEL, SINCE IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS TO HAVE MACHEL'S  
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VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS ON OUR PROPOSAL FOR AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE. HONWANA SAID HE WOULD SEE WHAT HE COULD DO.  
DE PREE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, FORM OF GOVERNMENT  
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**Draft Date:** 14 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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